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This invention provides a recombinant adenovirus expression vector characterized by the partial or total deletion of the adenoviral protein IX DNA and having a gene  
5 encoding a foreign protein or a functional fragment or mutant thereof. Transformed host cells and a method of producing recombinant proteins and gene therapy also are included within the scope of this invention.

Thus, for example, the adenoviral vector of this  
10 invention can contain a foreign gene for the expression of a protein effective in regulating the cell cycle, such as p53, Rb, or mitotin, or in inducing cell death, such as the conditional suicide gene thymidine kinase. (The latter must be used in conjunction with a thymidine kinase  
15 metabolite in order to be effective).

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